

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Currently pending are independent claims 18, 22, 29, 47, 51, 58, 76, 80 and 86 and dependent claims 2-4, 15-17, 19, 23-25, 28, 31-33, 44-46, 48, 52-53, 57, 60-62, 73-75, 77, 81, 83, 87 and new claims 93-107. Claims 1, 5-14, 20-21, 26-27, 30, 34-43, 49-50, 54-56, 59, 63-72, 78-79, 82, 84-85 and 88-92 are cancelled without prejudice by this amendment. Applicant retains the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19-21, 25-28, 30, 32-37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50, 54-57, 59, 61-66, 68, 69, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77-79, 83-85 and 87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Herrington et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,189,764). Claims 2, 9, 12, 15, 24, 31, 38, 41, 44, 53, 60, 67, 70, 73 and 82 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Herrington. Claims 18, 22, 23, 29, 47, 51, 53, 58, 76, 80, 81 and 86 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Amendments

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 13 and 14.

Claim 22 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 20 and 21. New claims 93-95 have been added to depend from now independent claim 22. Support for new claims 93-95 can be found in original claims 2-4.

Claim 29 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 26 and 27. New claims 96-98 have been added to depend from now independent claim 29. Support for new claims 96-98 can be found in original claims 2-4.

Claim 47 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 42 and 43.

Claim 51 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 49 and 50.

Claim 53 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 49 and 50.

Claim 58 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claims 55 and 56. New claims 99-101 have been added to depend from now independent claim 58. Support for new claims 99-101 can be found in original claims 31-33.

Claim 76 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 71 and 72.

Claim 80 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 78 and 79. New claims 102-104 have been added to depend from now independent claim 80. Support for new claims 102-104 can be found in original claims 60-62.

Claim 86 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 59 and intervening claims 84 and 85. New claims 105-107 have been added to depend from now independent claim 86. Support for new claims 105-107 can be found in original claims 60-62.

Discussion of the Prior Art Rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that there are substantial differences between the applied references, US Patent No. 5,189,764 to Herrington and Applicant's claimed invention. However, to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable, Applicant has made the cancellations and amendments to the claims indicated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. An early and favorable consideration of this Response is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

In the unlikely event that the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required as a result of this response, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due to Deposit Account No. 03-2270. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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